

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1 and add the following new claim:

2. A valve solenoid comprising: a housing having two parts and which can be employed in areas endangered by explosion; a coil; an iron circuit, the coil and the iron circuit being arranged in the housing; and a casting compound introduced into a first part of the housing so as to embed the coil and the iron circuit whereby the casting compound prevents an explosive atmosphere from reaching live parts and simultaneously fixes the coil and iron circuitry and provides electrical insulation, the coil having connecting elements arranged in a second housing part which is configured to resist explosion pressure in case of an internal explosion and prevents transmission of the explosion to the environment thereby providing pressure-resistant encapsulation.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the attached abstract to the end of the application.